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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/827,202	04/05/2001	Francis C. Peterson	S85.2-9662	5369

490 7590 10/03/2002

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.
6109 BLUE CIRCLE DRIVE
SUITE 2000
MINNETONKA, MN 55343-9185

EXAMINER

WORRELL JR, LARRY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3765

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/827,202	PETERSON ET AL.
	Examiner Danny Worrall	Art Unit 3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 9-13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Auerbach et al. (5649947).

Auerbach et al. (5649947) teaches the invention as claimed including a body having a drive rod (74) and arranged for longitudinal movement, a handle lever (12) being operatively engaged to the drive rod for movement between a first and second position and a cutter beam (20) pivotally movable between an actuated and nonactuated position, a lower pivot member (82) connecting the distal end of the body and the cutter beam and the cutter beam being further pivotally connected (80) to the drive rod.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 3, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auerbach et al. (5649947) in view of Yoon (5984939).

Auerbach et al. (5649947) teaches the invention as claimed as indicated above in the rejection to claim 1. Auerbach et al. (5649947) does not set forth a rack and pinion drive mechanism. Yoon (5984939) teaches a cutting probe having a rack and pinion drive mechanism. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to provide the cutter of Auerbach et al. (5649947) with a rack and pinion drive as shown by Yoon (5984939) in order to give a positive and reliable movement to the cutter of Auerbach et al. (5649947).

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auerbach et al. (5649947).

Auerbach et al. (5649947) teaches the invention as claimed as set forth above in the rejection to claim 1. Auerbach et al. (5649947) does not teach a straight blade. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to provide the cutter of Auerbach et al. (5649947) with a straight blade in order to cut a straight portion of tissue.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 6, 14, 15 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure..

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Danny Worrell whose telephone number is (703) 308-0889. Messages placed on voice mail will be returned by the end of my next business day.

The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-0758.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

Any inquiry concerning the Draftsperson's drawing review should be directed to the Chief Draftsperson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8404.

LDW
October 1, 2002



Danny Worrell
Primary Examiner
TC 3700